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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - December 12, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussion of the December 15th election is the major editorial theme of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on December 12, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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[1A. "Vote for Iraq"](#)  
(Editorial by Karim Al-Ameri - Kitabat (Writings) Website  
<http://www.kitabat.com> - independent based in Germany)

"Weeks of feverish electoral campaigns have ended, and the countdown has started towards the elections which can be seen as a new democratic page in Iraq despite all of the hardships suffered by Iraqis during the last two democratic events; people had to walk long distances to reach their polling stations in the first election and on referendum day. As of yet, authorities still haven't sought any solution for this problem which might have an impact on turnout, especially if we take into consideration the fact that many Iraqis consider their participation in the process nothing more than fulfilling a duty.

"This frankness might be annoying for some but it is relevant to Iraqis who still look ahead towards a better life as they impatiently await food rations for days and weeks for no known reason--especially when media outlets continue to cover news of ships unloading their shipments of wheat, rice, tea, and sugar while other ships unload American democracy and freedom in the Condoleezza Rice fashion.

"These are the main concerns of Iraqis prior to the elections, so they shouldn't be made to applaud and hail parties on an empty stomach, or sit on the pavement awaiting a job opportunity after the only thing filling their pockets turns out to be nothing more than promises and lies presented by officials who say solutions will arrive tomorrow. Don't let our mothers look back in remorse on days that failed to show kindness to Iraqis, don't let our elderly stand in lines outside banks waiting for the government's generous grant of ten thousand Iraqi dinars [~\$7], don't let our young women look enviously at their counterparts around the world who enjoy better educational opportunities and living standards.

"Don't leave our journalists outside your institutions and organizations waiting for an official statement that can't be obtained without praising the concerned official, don't establish red-lines for our people, don't hold a grudge towards anyone and let forgiveness be the merit of Iraqi society, and don't . don't . don't . they are many don'ts and we wouldn't have mentioned them if it weren't for the short time period separating us from a new Iraqi day that might be better than the previous ones. Let us all renounce party allegiances and sectarian lobbying, and let us all vote for Iraq."

[1B. "Saleh Al-Mutlag Threatens Iraqis with Axes Prior to the Elections"](#)  
(Editorial by Ali Al-Ali - Soat Al-Iraq (Voice of Iraq)  
Website <http://www.sotaliraq.com> - independent)

"Once again, the rotten Ba'athist Saleh Al-Mutlag, emerges from beneath the rocks in Ramadi and Fallujah, from the bloody swamps of abduction and beheadings, to turn up on the Al-Arabiya channel saying that if he doesn't win votes in the elections, he will take another course of action, adding that if his list were to win, he would try the current and previous government members whom he called (the followers of Bremer) and that they would stand a fair trial, unlike other trials, in a clear reference to the trial of his master Saddam. It's a well known fact that Al-Mutlag was a senior Ba'ath party member and supervised the properties of Saddam's wife. So how can such people be allowed to

participate in the new Iraq, and how can the Iraq Reconstruction Office offer him \$10 million under the cover of a pseudo company so he would participate in the political process? How could a government elected by Iraqis take such a step, and who's responsible for it?

"How did they say a year earlier that elections were a form of infidelity and betrayal under the presence of occupation, while today they appear like rats from their holes and start accusing Iraqis in an attempt to divide them?

"Here I blame Mr. Jalal Al-Talabani and Ibrahim Al-Ja'fari who represent Iraq for allowing such criminals to shed Iraqi blood. How can we hold dialogue with abductors and murderers? Shouldn't Iraqi soil be purged from such epidemics which live off the blood of Iraqis?

"Aren't the 35 years of suffering enough, or should we relive these years at the hands of those who hold a grudge against the Shiites and Kurds of Iraq? Do you want to be ruled by Salafis and extremists who kill all moderates whether Kurds, Shiites, or Sunnis? If you do agree to such a life, that's your own business, but the sons of mass graves and victims of chemical attacks have another say."

KHALILZAD